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Every ten years, local governments use new census data to redraw their district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. This process, called redistricting, is important in ensuring that each Council Member represents about the same number of constituents. Redistricting is done using U.S. Census data, which was released on September 27, 2021.

Your input is needed to redraw voting districts for the City Council, and one way you can participate is by assisting the County in developing a list of “communities of interest” (COI) that can be utilized in the process to redraw district lines.

What do the existing council districts look like?

You can find a map of the City’s current council districts here.

What is a Community of Interest (COI)?

A Community of Interest is a group of people that: share common social or economic interests, live in a geographically definable area, and should be included within a single district for purposes of effective and fair representation in future elections.

There are some communities of interest that are considered “protected classes” in that they have rights through state or federal civil rights or voting rights laws. Some examples of protected classes in districting would be ethnic and racial minorities such as a concentration of Latinx, Asian, or African American people.

There are other potential COI that can also be considered in redistricting, such as: senior citizens, college students, people who live in a particular neighborhood, or even people who share concerns such as parents with young children, bicycle enthusiasts, topic interest groups, etc.

COI does not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

What You Can Do to Participate in the Process

1. Provide your comments on your community of interest by completing the online COI worksheet below.
2. Attend one of the County’s Public Hearings. Find the schedule here.

1. Name:

[Redacted Name]

2. Email:

[Redacted Email]

3. Are you a residents of the City of South Pasadena?

Yes

4. What is the nature of the common social or economic interest of your community? You can describe what the common interests of your community are and why or how they are important.

The middle school and high schools

5. Where is your community located? You can define it by neighborhood, streets, address, proximity to a key landmark (such as a school or community center), or other boundaries.

in the monterey hills elementary district

6. What are the geographic definers/boundaries of your neighborhood? Examples of definers/boundaries could be highways, roads, rivers, hills, or parks.

monterey hills elementary school boundaries

7. What is the rationale for your community of interest to be used in this districting? Please describe how the issues before the City Council have a unique impact on your group.

I think keeping the elementary school areas together is important because it builds the sense of community and encourages participation in the school activities and neighborhood unity.

8. What do you like about the current district lines? What do you dislike about the current district lines?

I would be happy with only 3 city council members one from each of the elementary school zones. I would rather have 3 who listened to the public and each other than 5 who did not listen to the public or each other. I also think it is easier to get 3 people to agree and compromise than it is to get 5 people to agree and compromise. I feel more could be accomplished with only 3. We could have a mayor voted on by the whole city, making the panel 4 in all (3 council members and one Mayor). 4 members in all might make people feel like it wasn't so much of a dictatorship or conspiracy (Ha, Ha). Yes, three districts that line up with the elementary school boundaries would simplify everything.